

332 PSYCHOLOGICAL DATA :
DEVELOPMENT

no good milk or food or love. These two things indeed go together—if mother is made of bad stuff, the child cannot possibly be good ; and if the child is bad, the mother will be made so, too.

These anxieties are here shown in a projected form of accusation : " *You* are made of try ", etc. (P. 122, 26.11.24)
" At lunch, Harold said to Mrs. I., ' You are made of try.' Frank . . . ' You are made of water/ Benjie ' of bee-wee V (P. 126, 1.12*25) " When painting, Tommy painted his hands; Christopher, Dan and Priscilla said he was ' dirty '. He retorted, ' No, I'm not.' They spat on his picture and spoilt it. When Miss B. interfered, they said *she* was ' dirty ', ' a faeces person ', ' horrid ', etc. Later on, when Tommy was pouring some peas into a wooden measure, he spilt some on the floor; the other children spoke about this; but presently, when Mrs. I. stood near before he had picked them up, Priscilla and Frank pretended that it was she who had ' made water and passed faeces on the floor¹. ' Look what a lot she's done/ they said, laughing. ' We can see it—you'll have to brush it up/ and so on/'

Such accusations on the part of the child are partly true projections, meaning " *You are*, and I am *not* " ; and partly reassurances to his own self-love, on the ground that " *You are as well as I.*" Some of the child's curiosity about the adult's going to the lavatory, etc., arises from the need to prove to himself that it is not only children who have this bad stuff, these bad selves, inside them, but adults too. On the other hand, the child who is suffering from an exaggerated anxiety about his own anal sadism and badness cannot derive much reassurance from the fact that mothers also have to defaecate—this is too frightening a fact for those to

whom faeces and the act of voiding have
become almost
entirely bad. It confirms their dread that
mother is no
better than they, and therefore has nothing
good to give
them, just as they have none to give her. It is
only when the
earlier phase of goodness has not (from one
cause or another)
been altogether overwhelmed by the later one
of active
hostility that it means " I am no worse than she,
and therefore
I can receive good."

When the child's own unconscious wishes to
attack with
faeces and urine have been very strong (e.g.
24.4.25), there
often develops a dread of being given bad food
(in phantasy,